



MEDIA ADVISORY

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PACT Summit Looks at Future of Health Care Professions in California

Licensing Agencies to Discuss a Host of Issues at Major Consumer Affairs Conference

Who: The California Department of Consumer Affairs' allied health boards and bureaus will come together for the PACT summit, an extraordinary conference that will bring together nearly all of the Department of Consumer Affairs' 40 regulatory agencies.

What: The boards will discuss a number of consumer-related topics involving the future of health care in California.

When: November 18-21, 2008

Where: Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel
5400 West Century Blvd.

Topics and Background: **Board of Occupational Therapy:** Foreign-trained occupational therapy applicants constitute a significant portion of the applicants who come to California in response to the workforce shortage. The Board will discuss the OT workforce shortage and the role of foreign-trained occupational therapists in helping meet the occupational therapy needs of California's health care consumers.

Board of Respiratory Therapy: The Board will discuss the 2007 Workforce Study and strategies to address a projected workforce shortage and the feasibility of increasing competency levels for licensing.

Board of Registered Nursing: The Board will present the findings of a survey conducted on its behalf by the University of California, San Francisco Center for California Health Workforce Studies of registered nurses who requested endorsement of their nursing license into and out of California between August 2007 and January 2008.

Dental Bureau: The Bureau will review and consider the significance of the aging population seniors' access to dental care.

Board of Pharmacy and Medical Board: The Boards are sponsoring an e-prescribing forum that will focus on what current California law allows with respect to e-prescribing, how e-prescribing is used today, what issues have been encountered and resolved, and the acceptance of e-prescribing by patients, pharmacies, prescribers and third-party payers.

Board of Pharmacy: The Board will host a forum on prescription container labels as California moves forward to redesign and standardize labels so the instructions they contain are more easily understood by patients.

Bureau of Naturopathic Medicine: The Bureau's advisory council will discuss ramping up enforcement efforts against unlicensed activity in this newly licensed profession. Naturopathic medicine is one of the oldest continuously licensed health care professions in the country. It emphasize herbal therapies, diet, exercise, counseling and other natural healing techniques.

The meetings and forums are open to the public. If you have any questions about the stories outlined above or the PACT Summit in general, or would like us to help you set up interviews, obtain b-roll, etc., please contact the Office of Public Affairs. For a full agenda and schedule of the PACT Summit, visit the <http://www.dca.ca.gov/summit/>